



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW CARPOOL LANES OPEN ON I-405

LOS ANGELES – Motorists on the San Diego Freeway (I-405) had a pleasant surprise awaiting them this morning if they were driving in the area of LAX: 5.1 miles of brand new High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV, or carpool) lanes.

The \$40.3 million lanes, on I-405 in both directions from the Century Freeway (Route 105) to the Marina Freeway (Route 90), were started in the winter of 2003. They are expected to ease congestion and improve traffic flow, thereby reducing vehicle emissions and improving air quality.

"Why is Caltrans building carpool lanes?" asked the Department's District Director, Doug Failing, at a ceremony to celebrate the project's completion. "Because they work." HOV lanes carry close to 725,000 people per day in Los Angeles County, he said, saving users an average of one minute per mile during peak hours.

The new lanes are part of a multi-stage project to create one seamless HOV lane on I-405 from the airport area to the San Fernando Valley. On southbound I-405, the lane will be continuous by early 2008. Northbound, a "missing link" from I-10 to U.S. 101 is currently in the environmental phase.

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa also attended the ceremony, along with city of Inglewood Mayor Roosevelt Dorn and Los Angeles City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl.

"Smart carpool commuters will be able to take advantage of this carpool lane and get to their destinations quicker and more efficiently," said Mayor Villaraigosa. "This project is one of many investments in our long-term plan to continue improving mobility across the City of Los Angeles."





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